

MIND-READING COMPUTERS

British and American scientists are developing an "emotionally aware" computer that they hope will be able to read an individual's thoughts by analysing a combination of facial movements that represent underlying feelings.

Professor Peter Robinson and his collaborators from the University of Cambridge, in England, believe the computer's applications could range from improving people's driving skills to helping companies tailor advertising to people's moods.

"The system we have developed allows a wide range of mental states to be identified just by pointing a video camera at someone," he said.

"Imagine a computer that could pick the right emotional moment to try to sell you something, a future where mobile phones, cars and websites could read our mind and react to our moods."

The scientists, who are developing the technology in collaboration with researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the USA, also hope to get it to accept other inputs such as posture and gesture.

"Our research could enable websites to tailor advertising or products to your mood," Professor Robinson said. "For example, a webcam linked with our software could process your image, encode



the correct emotional state and transmit information to a website."

It could also be useful in online teaching to show whether someone understands what is being explained and in improving road safety by determining if a driver is confused, bored or tired.

"We are working with a big car company and they envision this being employed in cars within five years," he said.

He says a camera could be built into the dashboard and anyone who does not want to give away too much information about what they are feeling can just cover up the camera.

(Source: Reuters, 26 June 2006)

BUSH'S BUSINESS IS CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET

Before and during US President George W. Bush's recent trip to Vienna, Austrian newspapers were abuzz with details of the heavy-handed, Gestapo-like security measures behind the visit.

But of all these measures, it was White House "toilet security" ("TOILSEC") that had Austrians talking the most.

The White House flew in a special portable toilet to Vienna for Bush's personal use during his visit. It seems that the White House is so concerned about the President's security that it has extended the veil of secrecy over his bodily excretions.

The special port-a-john was designed to capture Bush's "waste material" which was then to be flown back to the United States, thus thwarting any attempt by some enterprising foreign intelligence agency to conduct an operation designed to trap and examine Bush's waste material. One can only wonder why the White House takes such extraordinary security measures.

In the past, similar operations were conducted against foreign leaders to determine their medical conditions, but these intelligence operations were directed against dictators in countries where even the medical conditions of the top political leaders were considered "state secrets".

The Israeli Mossad conducted one such operation against Syrian President Hafez Assad when he visited Amman, Jordan, in 1999 for the funeral of King Hussein. The Mossad had installed a special toilet in Assad's hotel room that led not to a pipe but to a specimen canister. Assad suffered from diabetes and cancer, and the operation was designed to discover the actual medical condition of the ailing leader.

During Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Washington in 1987, the CIA reportedly placed a special trap under a sewage tank to collect the Soviet leader's bodily waste for analysis.

More recently, the CIA was reported to have collected waste samples from Ugandan president-dictator Yoweri Museveni's toilet when he visited Washington.

(Source: Wayne Madsen Report, 4 July 2006, <http://www.waynemadsenreport.com>)



BIOLOGICAL CLOCK LINK WITH CANCER

Dartmouth Medical School geneticists have discovered that DNA damage resets the cellular circadian clock, suggesting links among circadian timing, the cycle of cell division and the propensity for cancer.

Their work implies that the biological clock has a protective dimension, in addition to having pacemaker functions that play such a sweeping role in the rhythms and activities of life.

One gene (period-4) was identified over 25 years ago by a mutation that affects two clock properties, shortening the circadian period and altering temperature compensation.

For this study, the researchers cloned the gene, based on its position in the genome, and found it was an important cell cycle regulator. When they eliminated the gene from the genome, the clock was normal—indicating that the mutation interfered in some way with the clock, rather than supplying something that the clock normally needed to run.

Biochemically, the mutation results in a premature modification of the well-understood clock protein frequency (FRQ). The investigators demonstrated that this was a direct result of action by an enzyme, in mammals called checkpoint kinase-2 (CHK2), whose normal role is exclusively in regulating the cell division cycle. CHK2 physically interacts with FRQ; the mutation makes this interaction much stronger. However, a mutant enzyme that has lost its activity has no effect on the clock.

(Source: Dartmouth Medical School, 30 June 2006, <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/06/060630100044.htm>)

COMMON VACCINE ADJUVANT KILLS BRAIN CELLS

If two dozen once-jittery mice at the University of British Columbia (UBC) are telling the truth post mortem, the world's governments may soon be facing one hell of a lawsuit. New, so-far-unpublished, research led by Vancouver neuroscientist Chris Shaw shows a link between the aluminium hydroxide used in vaccines and symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease) and Alzheimer's disease.

Shaw is most surprised that the research for his paper hadn't been done before. For

80 years, doctors have injected patients with aluminium hydroxide—an adjuvant that stimulates immune response.

"This is suspicious. Either this [link] is known by industry and it was never made public, or industry was never made to do these studies by Health Canada. I'm not sure which is scarier."

According to Shaw's paper, similar adjuvants are used in hepatitis A and B vaccines and in the Pentacel cocktail, which vaccinates against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio and a type of meningitis.

To test the link theory, Shaw and his four-scientist team from UBC and Louisiana State University injected mice with the anthrax vaccine developed for the first Gulf War. As Shaw explained, because Gulf War syndrome looks a lot like ALS, the neuroscientists had a chance to isolate a possible cause. All deployed troops were vaccinated with an aluminium hydroxide compound. Vaccinated troops who were not deployed to the Gulf developed similar symptoms at a similar rate, according to Shaw.

After 20 weeks of studying the mice, the team found statistically significant increases in anxiety (38%), memory deficits (41 times the errors as in the sample group), and an allergic skin reaction (20%). Tissue samples after the mice were "sacrificed" showed that neurological cells were dying. Inside the mice's brains, in a part that controls movement, 35% of the cells were destroying themselves.

"No one in my lab wants to get

vaccinated," Shaw said. "This totally crept us out. We weren't out there to poke holes in vaccines. But all of a sudden, oh my God—we've got neuron death!"

It's possible, he said, that there are 10,000 studies that show aluminium hydroxide is safe for injections. But he hasn't been able to find any that look beyond the first few weeks of injection. If anyone has a study that shows something different, he said, then "put it on the table". "That's how you do science."

(Source: The Georgia Straight, 23 March 2006, <http://www.straight.com/content.cfm?id=16717>)

CIA AND MI6 GAVE TRAINING CAMP TO OSAMA BIN LADEN

The *Wayne Madsen Report* has obtained a confidential "France Only" report of the French intelligence service, Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure (DGSE), that states that the CIA and Britain's MI6 maintained effective control of an important al-Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan as late as 1995—two years after the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, an attack that was launched with the help of Sudanese intelligence officers loyal to Osama bin Laden.

The CIA and MI6 permitted control of training operations at Darunta—an "Arab Afghan" base located near the camp of Osama bin Laden and used to manufacture explosives and chemical weapons and train in their use—to pass to the control of Ibn Cheikh, a Libyan leader of al-Qaeda.

Two significant items emerge from the



"I'm an astronomy tutor. I was giving a class on the Big Bang, when some guys in black uniforms smashed down the door and the next thing I remember is waking up here."

DGSE report. One is the fact that the CIA and MI6 were dealing with a Libyan al-Qaeda member at the same time that Libyan leader Muammar al Qaddafi had declared war on al-Qaeda. Unlike the United States, Libya issued an Interpol arrest warrant for bin Laden on 16 March 1998. With this treasure trove of proof of US (and British) support for al-Qaeda, Qaddafi had the US and the neo-cons over a barrel. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Bush administration now considers Qaddafi (once branded as terrorist number one) to be a good friend.

The other item is the training of Ahmed Ressam at Darunta. Bill Clinton's National Security Adviser Sandy Berger was charged with removing classified documents from the National Archives concerning the Ressam bombing plot. The question remains: what were in these documents and did they have anything to do with the CIA's fingerprints on the Darunta camp?

(Source: Wayne Madsen Report, 23 May 2006, <http://www.waynemadsenreport.com>)

DID LONDON BOMBERS WORK FOR BRITISH INTELLIGENCE?

Anoted terrorism expert has suggested to the BBC that Mohammed Siddique Khan, the alleged ringleader of the 7 July 2005 (7/7) London bombings, was working for the British intelligence agency MI5 as an informant at the time of the attacks.

Charles Shoebridge was a detective with the London Metropolitan Police for 12 years, is a former graduate of the Royal

Military Academy at Sandhurst, and is now a broadcaster and writer on terrorism in the UK.

"The amount of information coming out and the quality of information coming out: the fact that *that* has been so consistently overlooked, it would appear, by the security service MI5 to me suggests really only one of two options. Either we've got a level of incompetence that would be unusual even for the security services, or Khan was working as an informant for the security service," he said.

This meshes with the inconceivable coincidence of exercises which drilled the same targets being attacked at the same time, being conducted by Visor Consultants, and eyewitness reports suggesting that the accused displayed no behaviour conducive with suicide bombers.

The alleged bombers bought return train tickets, left pay-and-display valid tickets on their cars in Luton and had their movements captured on CCTV, but they gave no indications that they were nervous about their imminent deaths. Even Metropolitan Police investigators now believe that the bombers were dupes set up by somebody else and didn't know they were carrying live explosives.

The 7/7 links with British intelligence agencies don't end with Khan. Terror expert John Loftus told the Fox News *Dayside* show that alleged London bombing mastermind Haroon Rashid Aswat was an MI6 intelligence asset whom British security helped protect and hide before the bombings.

Recent media reports concerning Khan's movements have brought to light evidence that Khan's Honda Accord was bugged by MI5 prior to the bombings. Though denied by the Metropolitan Police, this would again sync with the supposition that Khan was doing the bidding of British intelligence when four bombs ripped apart three trains and a bus on 7 July, killing 52 and injuring more than 770 people.

(Source: *Prison Planet.com*, 27 June 2006, <http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/june2006/270606londonbomber.htm>)

NANOTECH SENSORS CAN SNIFF OUT MONEY

United States border security officials have sponsored the development of a sensor at the University of Michigan that detects the gases given off by the ink on paper bills, making it easier to catch currency smugglers.

With the advent of nanotechnology, sensors are becoming so small that they allow the monitoring of many conditions in ways never before possible. Dr Kensall Wise, director of the Center for Wireless Integrated MicroSystems at the University of Michigan, calls wireless integrated microsystems (WMS) "the final frontier in the pervasiveness of microelectronics".

He's working on a micropowered environmental monitor for the precision analysis of gaseous materials. This wristwatch-sized device can detect the presence of toxic gases at the level of just 100 parts per trillion. It can also monitor temperature, humidity, pressure and more. For example, it can recognise the presence of mustard gas in a building's air supply in just four seconds.

(Source: *Nanotech Buzz*, 5 July 2006, <http://www.nanotechbuzz.com>)

ULTRASOUND FREQUENCIES FOUND TO "REGROW" TEETH

An ultrasound transmitter that fits neatly inside a person's mouth like a brace could help to regrow damaged teeth.

Jie Chen and Ying Tsui, engineers at the University of Alberta in Canada, developed the miniature device after ultrasound stimulation encouraged damaged teeth and jawbone tissue to regrow in animals.

Tarek El-Bialy, who works in Alberta's medical faculty, was able to regrow teeth in rabbits with a larger device, but only when some tooth root remained in place.

The ultrasound device could help those who have had their teeth broken while



*"It's OK if you're not sure about the place.
Why don't you check out our website first?"*

playing high-impact sports such as ice hockey and rugby. The tooth brace sends low-power ultrasound pulses to the damaged tooth over many months. A piezoelectric crystal generates the ultrasound by vibrating at frequencies above 20 kilohertz when fed an alternating voltage from an oscillator charged by a battery.

Physiotherapists often use ultrasound to help broken bones knit back together, although the healing mechanism is not precisely understood. One theory is that pressure waves mimic the effect of strenuous exercise, loading a bone and tricking it into generating more bone cells—a process called osteogenesis.

El-Bialy's work on rabbits in 2003 first showed that low-power ultrasound also encourages growth of dental tissue. (Source: *New Scientist*, 6 July 2006)

SHEEP DIE FROM GRAZING ON GE COTTON LAND

Recent studies on GE cotton farming have raised grave concerns about the safety of GE cotton which is widely used in food as well as in clothing.

In New Zealand, a preliminary report released in late April found that thousands of sheep died after grazing on land where GE cotton had been grown. The sheep and goats started dying after seven days of continuously grazing on tender leaves and pods of Bt cotton that remained in the fields after picking.

In December 2005, a three-month study was released which found that workers picking GE cotton suffered severe skin reactions, with itching and blistering eruptions leaving a black skin discolouration which was still apparent after five months.

The British Medical Association has already signalled that GE products could present certain risks, including the creation of drug resistance in venereal disease as a result of women being exposed to GE constructs in personal hygiene products.

Further, GE cotton crops have failed in regions of India, with many suicides resulting because of the debt accrued from the high cost of growing the cotton. This has prompted the Indian Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) to concede after three years of commercial cultivation that Mahyco-Monsanto's Mech-184 Bt, Mech-162 Bt and Mech-12 Bt are a failure.

(Source: *GE Free NZ*, 9 May 2006)

THE MYSTERIOUS MORGELLONS DISEASE

It's like a mystery disease straight out of the *X-Files*, but those who suffer from it will tell you it's painfully real. Imagine sweating beads of a black, tar-like substance, pulling coloured threadlike strings from sores all over your body or feeling like your skin is crawling with bugs.

Miles Lawrence, a landscaper in Florence, Texas, was supposed to be packing for a road trip to Las Vegas when he noticed his finger tingling. He stared in disbelief, he says, as "little spiny things" sprouted out of the skin where he'd just removed a splinter. He grasped one of the spines with tweezers and pulled.

Instantly, he says, a bolt of pain shot up his arm. He tugged on another one and the pain snaked up his neck. Then the really creepy part began. "It felt like bugs under the skin of my arms, in my joints," Lawrence says. "I freaked out."

Across the country, thousands of people complaining of the same horrifying phenomenon have formed an illness subculture. They share lists of symptoms, medical speculation and tales of run-ins with mainstream doctors at <http://www.morgellons.org>, the official website of the Morgellons Research Foundation. It was founded in 2002 by Mary Leitao in McMurray, Pennsylvania. Leitao named the condition Morgellons disease—after a disease with similar symptoms mentioned in a 16th-century medical text—while investigating a skin affliction on her then-two-year-old son.

Morgellons has barely registered on the radar of mainstream medicine. Few doctors have heard of the condition, and fewer still know what to make of it. So when people walk into an examination room and announce their symptoms, they are often met with scepticism or claims they are suffering from delusional parasitosis—literally, delusions of parasites in the skin.

"Believe me, if I just randomly saw one of these patients in my office, I would think they were crazy, too," nurse practitioner Ginger Savely said. She treats Morgellons patients from all over the country at her San Francisco Medical Center. "But after you've heard the story of over a hundred patients and they're all down to the most minute detail saying the exact same thing, [it] becomes quite impressive."

In Austin, Texas, nurse practitioner Ginger Savely says she's seeing more and more patients in her clinic with the symptoms, like painful skin ulcers that spring blue fibres, white threads and little black specks of sand-like material. "Talking about it just sounds crazy, but there are just a lot of things that come out of their skin."

Savely, who specialises in Lyme disease, believes she may have found a clue. "About 10 per cent of my patients with chronic Lyme disease have symptoms of this Morgellons," says Savely. She says people with the tick-borne disease have weaker immune systems and may be more vulnerable to the infection.

The real cause of Morgellons disease, however, remains a medical mystery. Most individuals with this disease report disturbing crawling, stinging and biting sensations as well as non-healing skin lesions which are associated with highly unusual structures. These structures can be described as fibre-like or filamentous, and are the most striking feature of this disease. In addition, patients report the presence of seed-like granules and black speck-like material associated with their skin.

The peripheral nervous system is often affected by this disease, but the most significant element of the infection appears to be the effect on the central nervous system. Nearly all people with this illness report extreme difficulty with mental concentration and short-term memory.

Mood disorders, such as depression and bipolar disorder, are extremely common in this group of patients, affecting well over half of all individuals reporting symptoms of Morgellons disease. Parents of children with Morgellons disease report that the majority of these children have ADHD, ODD, mood disorders or autism. It is estimated that 65% of these children have some form of psychiatric illness and 10% have an autism spectrum disorder.

Associated diagnoses which have been commonly reported in this patient population include borreliosis (better known as Lyme disease), fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome.

(Sources: *Morgellons Research Foundation*, PO Box 16576, Surfside Beach, SC 29587, USA, <http://www.morgellons.org>; *Popular Mechanics*, June 2005)